

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 19, 2004, **KAREEM A. BOWIE**, age 32, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BOWIE was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, and ordered to pay a \$700 special assessment.

BOWIE was convicted following trial of seven counts of mail fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341. The evidence at trial proved that from on or about September 25, 2002, and continuing to on or about November 30, 2002, the exact dates being unknown, KAREEM A. BOWIE devised, operated and conducted a scheme to defraud, and to obtain money by means of false pretenses, from the parents of current and former students at Southern Illinois University (SIU) at Carbondale, Illinois. During this time frame, BOWIE sent a letter via U.S. Mail from a company BOWIE created called FMM Service Department. The letter appeared to be a "Past Due" notice and was sent to the parents of current and former SIU students. The letter requested payment of either \$86 or \$25 for the student's participation in a job search program run by FMM. The evidence showed that FMM was not a legitimate company and that there was no job search program.

Over 250 letters were sent to parents of current and former SIU Students. The evidence showed that numerous parents of current and former SIU students sent through the United States Mail checks payable in the amount of either \$86 or \$25 to FMM Service Department.

Each of the separate seven counts charged that on various dates between October 22, 2002, and November 18, 2002, for the purpose of executing and in order to effect the scheme to defraud and obtain money, BOWIE did knowingly cause to be sent, delivered and moved by the United States Postal Service from various individuals money payable to FMM Service Department.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Southern Illinois University Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.